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Juvenile Justice Bulletin

OJJDP Update on Programs

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OJJDP funds 21 new projects during fiscal year 1988

Illegal juvenile drug use, escalating gang violence, missing and exploited children, and removal of juveniles from adult lockups and jails are some of the major issues facing the juvenile justice system today. They are problems that must be addressed at the local and State levels by the entire juvenile justice system—from law enforcement to courts to community agencies.

To help the juvenile justice system do just that, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) developed and funded 21 new programs during fiscal year 1988. Many of these programs will train law enforcement agents, school administrators, social service professionals, and judges and other court personnel to work together in developing coordinated, comprehensive strategies to fight serious juvenile crime in their communities.

OJJDP also placed special emphasis on fighting illegal drug use by juveniles. The Office's new drug programs range from working with high risk youth in public housing projects to helping communities fight the escalating violence of youth gangs.

The following is a summary of new projects funded during fiscal year 1988 by OJJDP.

Illegal drug use among high risk youth

Fighting juvenile drug use remains a high OJJDP priority. Indeed, OJJDP supports a policy of zero tolerance for drug use. This year, OJJDP initiated 10 programs to deal with juvenile drug use, focusing its efforts on high risk youth and on preventing and controlling youth gang drug trafficking. OJJDP's drug prevention programs are based on the concept that adults, youth, and the community must be held accountable for illegal drug use. This year's projects emphasize the factors that place youth at risk of illegal drug use and promote systemwide coordination of community resources.

Gang Community Reclamation Project. $1,050,000 to the County of Los Angeles Probation Department, 9150 East Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242.

Los Angeles County has the most serious gang problem in the Nation; its youth gang membership totals 70,000. Many Los Angeles County areas are already dealing with serious youth gang violence; others are experiencing youth gangs for the first time. With OJJDP support, three Los Angeles communities where symptoms of gang activity are beginning to develop will establish

From the Administrator:

As the Federal Agency responsible for addressing juvenile justice issues, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has an obligation to provide State and local jurisdictions with information about effective programs that can help them improve their juvenile justice systems.

Because we want to make sure that our programs address those issues deemed most important by the field, for the past 2 years OJJDP has actively sought input from local and State juvenile justice policymakers, practitioners, researchers, State planning agencies and advisory groups, human service organizations, and professional associations.

Based on several major issues that emerged during these discussions, the Office targeted its fiscal year 1988 efforts on a wide array of prevention, prosecution, and adjudication programs, including fighting juvenile drug use and serious juvenile crime, helping States remove juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and fighting crimes against missing and exploited children.

We focused special attention on the growing problem of juvenile gangs and their involvement in the illegal drug trade. This is such a critical problem that we are working closely with Los Angeles County on a $1 million project to help specific neighborhoods in the county "reclaim" their communities from gangs.

This project, and 20 other programs developed and funded in FY 1988, are designed to help local jurisdictions find strategies to help them respond more effectively to their juvenile justice needs. They are indicative of OJJDP's efforts to provide leadership and guidance to help local and State practitioners improve their juvenile justice systems.

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communitywide projects to curb the growth of youth gangs. The Office for Substance Abuse Prevention joined OJJDP in funding this project. The project will bring together schools, community services, law enforcement, and the courts to devise a systemwide community approach to prevent and suppress gang activity and restore social organization and order within the targeted neighborhood areas.

Program components will target hardcore gang members for prosecution and intensive supervision, divert new members, and prevent young people from becoming involved in gang activities by providing alternatives to gang membership. The project will attempt to decrease gang violence by offering special services to youth and their families to help reduce the number of dropouts, truancy, illegal drug use, and trafficking, and by increasing residents' sense of safety through community involvement. The project will also develop an operations manual and training package to guide other jurisdictions faced with similar emerging youth gang problems.

National Youth Gang Conference. $150,000 to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Suite 200, 1110 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22201, and the National District Attorneys Association, Suite 200, 1033 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

OJJDP recently hosted a National Youth Gang Conference in Los Angeles, bringing together six-member teams from 20 cities with emerging gang problems. Each team included representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, court service agencies, community service agencies, and the school system. This forum provided participants a national perspective on the youth gang issue and an opportunity to share information on effective prevention, intervention, adjudication, and supervision programs. The teams assessed their locality's needs and resources and outlined strategies to build a communitywide response. The conference also created a network of cities that will work together to aggressively respond to juvenile gang crime.

National Media Campaign on At Risk Youth. $250,000 to Pepperdine University, 24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90265.

Frequently the media—especially television and films—glamorize drug use and the lifestyles of drug traffickers. OJJDP's National Media Campaign will counteract that message with one that illegal drug use will not be tolerated and that everyone, including youth, families, and communities, will be held accountable. The campaign will focus on changing attitudes. It will encourage communities to mobilize their resources and develop comprehensive strategies for eliminating illegal drug use among high risk youth.

As part of this project, OJJDP sponsored a workshop that brought together 10 leading professionals in the field of at risk youth to discuss ways of educating the public about youth at risk of illegal drug use. These experts also will develop a film, public service announcements, and color posters for schools.

National Information Package: High Risk Youth. $45,136 to Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse of NCJRS, Aspen Systems Corporation, 1600 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850.

The High Risk Youth Committee of the National Drug Policy Board, chaired by OJJDP's Administrator, recommended developing a national information package to help States and communities identify their youth drug problems and develop effective responses. The package will outline nine factors that put youth at high risk for illegal drug use and describe intervention strategies communities can use to help such youth. It will also provide a reading list of related materials and a list of organizations across the United States that are taking an active role in youth issues.

Reaching At Risk Youth in Public Housing. $211,998 to Boys Clubs of America, Field Services, 771 First Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

Public housing projects, and particularly the young people who live in them, are often the target of drug dealers. This program will develop procedures and manuals for establishing and operating Boys and Girls Clubs in selected public housing projects. The goal is to help prevent juvenile delinquency and drug activity by providing recreational, educational, and crisis intervention activities that can divert youth from drug use and trafficking. The program will also help communities develop information and referral services for at risk youth in public housing projects.

Alternative School Program. $1,000,000 to Cities in Schools, Inc., Suite 600, 1023 15th Street NW., Washington, DC 20005.

Cities in Schools (CIS) programs identify the needs of youth who are likely to drop out of school and coordinate the community resources to help them and their families. Recently, CIS developed a model alternative school program that offers intensive education services, social services, vocational education, and employment opportunities to potential high school dropouts who are at high risk of using illegal drugs or engaging in delinquent

behavior. Through a public-private venture involving support from OJJDP and Burger King Corporation, CIS will replicate the alternative school concept in 10 communities, including Miami, home of the Burger King Corporation. As part of this project, Burger King has agreed to make scholarship funds and corporate training opportunities available to CIS students who stay drug free.

Community-Based Anti-Drug Capacity-Building Demonstration Program. $98,864 to National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, 1367 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20036.

This anti-drug-abuse program will build on the strengths and resources of neighborhood organizations, enlisting their support and know-how in fighting juvenile drug use and drug-related crimes. The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (NCNE) will assess exemplary neighborhood-based anti-drug programs and prepare a monograph on 6 to 12 models.

The project will also include a national satellite teleconference to disseminate information about the community programs, gather additional information, and promote neighborhood-based efforts to address juvenile drug use. The teleconference will originate in Washington, D.C., and NCNE will provide low-cost access to many neighborhood groups in the country. Approximately 1,400 to 2,000 individuals are expected to participate in the teleconference. NCNE also anticipates that thousands of households will have a chance to see at least portions of the program on cable television. Following the conference, NCNE will produce and make available a 1-hour videotaped synopsis of the teleconference as well as four half-hour specials featuring closeups of exemplary programs.

Training for Juvenile Justice Decisionmakers—High Risk Youth. $249,957 to Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, Suite 805, 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

To hold youth accountable for their illegal drug use, the juvenile justice system must provide consistent systemwide consequences for youth who break the law. To this end, this project will examine ways to strengthen law enforcement and court processing of drug-related cases from arrest through disposition. Two training conferences will be held in 1989 for the Drug Enforcement Administration's Demand Reduction Agents and for the U.S. Attorneys' Law Enforcement Coordinating Councils. These professionals will be trained to help communities assess their juvenile drug abuse problems and provide an effective response to them. The project will develop a curriculum, a trainer's guide, and a training videotape.

Training for State Policymakers. $250,000 to Community Research Associates, Suite 302, 115 North Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

OJJDP hosted a training conference for key State policymakers to provide them with up-to-date information on the status of OJJDP programs and suggestions on how to address critical juvenile justice issues by coordinating Federal, State, and local efforts and resources. Conference participants included chief State school officers, State directors of drug and alcohol programs, corrections administrators, and State criminal justice coordinators. The conference focused on the importance of developing systemwide coordinated responses to juvenile justice issues, especially illegal drug use by high risk youth and serious juvenile crime.

Drug-Related Accountability Package. $100,551 to National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, P.O. Box 8970, Reno, NV 89507.

State and local jurisdictions need up-to-date information about effective legislation and programs that hold users accountable for illegal drug use. The purpose of this project is to identify State statutes, policies, and programs that promote user accountability and to develop a training and technical assistance package for juvenile justice system policymakers and practitioners.

National Information Package: AIDS in Juvenile Corrections. $30,000 to American Correctional Association, 8025 Laurel Lakes Center, Laurel, MD 20707

The national information package will help practitioners understand AIDS and identify appropriate correctional policies and procedures to respond to the problem. Planned projects include workshops on AIDS and the development of brochures and a newsletter. Educational videos on AIDS will be developed for correctional staff and detained juveniles.

Drug Testing Guidelines. $74,541 to American Probation and Parole Association, Council of State Governments, P.O. Box 11910, Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40578.

Given the cost of drug testing and the ethical and legal issues surrounding it, juvenile justice agencies must have the best available information on testing. For these agencies, this program will develop and disseminate drug testing guidelines that focus on who should be tested, who should do the testing, and how the test results should be used. The guidelines will then become part of a training curriculum. The program

will be closely coordinated with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, which is supporting the development of testing guidelines for the criminal justice system.

Drug Identification Program for Juvenile Probation and Parole Personnel. $97,772 to American Probation and Parole Association, Council of State Governments, P.O. Box 11910, Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40578.

Probation and parole officers are responsible for ensuring that youth under their supervision remain drug free. This program will train these officers in a sophisticated drug evaluation and classification process based on the Drug Recognition Program of the Los Angeles Police Department and will develop a training curriculum that can be used by juvenile probation and parole staff nationwide.

Removing juveniles from jails

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act, as amended, calls for removing juveniles from adult jails and lockups as a condition of receiving formula grant funds. OJJDP's discretionary program in this area assists States in planning and implementing strategies for removing juveniles from adult jails and lockups, including developing appropriate alternative placements.

Jail Removal Initiative II. $3,000,000.

In addition to awarding formula grants to participating States, OJJDP has provided additional funding totaling $3,000,000 to States not yet in substantial compliance with the jail removal mandates of the Act. To ensure eventual full compliance, OJJDP requires that the funds be used for programs and services similar to those that have proved successful in States where full or substantial compliance with the jail removal initiative has been achieved.

Of the 25 States and one territory not in substantial compliance, 18 applied to receive this discretionary funding. Each was required to meet certain conditions for eligibility, including developing a State plan that allocates a minimum of 40 percent of the State's 1988 formula grant award to programs that support the removal of juveniles from adult jails or lockups. Additionally, the principal State agency responsible for the provision of direct services related to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention must be significantly involved in the development and implementation of this initiative. Finally, the State's chief executive must show an "unequivocal" commitment to removing juveniles from jails and lockups.

Seventeen States and one territory met the eligibility requirements and will receive funding: Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Missing and exploited children

During fiscal year 1988, OJJDP designed seven programs to reduce crimes against children, particularly abduction and sexual exploitation, and to improve the responses of agencies and organizations that deal with these crimes. Through these programs, OJJDP will provide information, training, and technical assistance to juvenile justice professionals and other decisionmakers about effective strategies that can reduce the incidence of missing and exploited children and improve the system's response to young victims and their families.

Missing/Exploited Children Action Program (M–CAP). $382,768 to Public Administration Services, 1497 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101.

This project will help communities improve their programs for missing and exploited children. It will identify effective community organizations and program planning and development strategies to improve a community's response to cases of missing and exploited children.

The project will develop a guide describing effective programs as well as a community action guide on how to assess community problems and organize and target resources and mobilize community leaders. The project will also help local programs educate parents and children in ways to prevent exploitation; provide information and training for locating and identifying missing children; and increase knowledge about treatment and support services to families of missing children.

Training for Juvenile Justice Decisionmakers: Missing Children and Sexual Exploitation. $259,556 to National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, P.O. Box 8970, Reno, NV 89507.

The problem of missing and exploited children extends beyond the courts and juvenile justice system; it also touches many public, private, and volunteer providers of treatment and services. A national conference cosponsored by OJJDP and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in October 1988 provided a forum for these groups to share information on effective strategies and to coordinate

future efforts to prevent child victimization. Titled "America's Missing and Exploited Children: A Juvenile Justice Dilemma," the conference addressed several issues including parental and nonparental abductions, prevention programs, street youth and drugs, sexual exploitation, and law enforcement and court programs. A posticonference report will be produced.

This project will also include five regional and State training events, using the conference speakers as trainers.

Reunification of Missing Children. $174,840 to University of California, San Francisco, Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, c/o Contracts and Grants Office, San Francisco, CA 94143-0962.

The problems created by a child's abduction are not resolved when the child is reunited with the family. Families devastated by this event may require long-term assistance. This program will identify and assess strategies that ease the psychological trauma experienced by both abducted children and their families. The grantee will then develop a model program, based on the most effective strategies. Training and technical assistance materials will be developed and several communities will be selected through a competition to test the model programs.

Child Safety Curriculum Standards. $200,000 to the National School Safety Center, Suite 200, 16830 Ventura Boulevard, Encino, CA 91436.

Educators can play a vital role in preventing child abduction and exploitation. To help educators refine their role, this initiative will identify and analyze existing child safety curriculums and develop and disseminate national educational program standards.

National Conference on Child Sexual Exploitation. $123,000 to National District Attorneys Association, Suite 200, 1033 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

To help communities develop coordinated approaches for responding to child sexual exploitation, OJJDP brought together some of the country's leading experts for a 4-day conference in Tucson, Arizona. Teams of law enforcement officers, medical professionals, social service workers, and government and community service organization personnel from 12 communities were selected to attend. They were presented with state-of-the-art strategies for developing a multidisciplinary action plan to treat victims of child sexual exploitation and to prevent future episodes. The National District Attorneys Asssociation is developing a reference manual based on the conference proceedings.

Parental Kidnapping. $99,989 to American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI), Suite 200, 1033 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

In cases of parental and other family abductions, prosecutors face many difficult legal, jurisdictional, and administrative issues. This project will help prosecutors more effectively prosecute noncustodial parents who abduct their children, and guide community activities to prevent or respond to abduction by assessing what is taking place in the field with regard to parental kidnapping. This project will also determine the steps necessary for successfully handling parental abduction cases; identify judicial, law enforcement, and social science experts in such cases; and identify resources and materials to help prosecutors. In addition, APRI will analyze State laws and policies regarding parental abductions.

Assistance to Missing and Exploited Children PVO's. $325,000.

Private nonprofit voluntary organizations (PVO's) for missing and exploited children, with the assistance of volunteers, provide direct services and support to families and communities affected by child victimization. Services include educating parents, children, and communities on how to prevent the abduction or sexual exploitation of children; assisting in the location and recovery of missing children; and providing treatment for children and parents suffering the psychological consequences of these events. This program provides PVO's for missing children the funding they need to establish or expand such services. During fiscal year 1988, 15 PVO's received grants.

For more information

For more information about these projects, contact the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850, or call toll free 1-800-638-8736 (1-301-251-5500 in Maryland and Metropolitan Washington, D.C.).

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program Offices and Bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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